

National Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Center

Excellence in Prescribed Fire

3250 Capital Circle SW • Tallahassee, FL 32310
1-877/223-2198 • 850/521-2080
850/521-2081 (fax)
<http://fire.r9.fws.gov/pftc>

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

2001 Sessions

Application Period Extended until September 15, 2000

Course Name: National Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Center

Dates: January 8 - January 30, 2001
February 5 - February 27, 2001
March 5 - March 27, 2001
April 9 - May 1, 2001
May 29 - June 20, 2001

Location: Tallahassee, Florida

Cost: Base 8 salary plus all travel to and from the Center

Course Coordinators: John Fort (850/521-2080, ext. 4)
Bess Dickson (850/521-2080, ext. 3)

Prerequisites:

1. Successful completion of S-290 (or agency equivalent)
2. Minimum of two (2) years experience in prescribed fire
3. Qualified (or trainee) for RxB II or below (or agency equivalent)

College Credit: Undergraduate credit will most likely be available for the 2001 sessions.
Selected attendees will be given the opportunity to apply for these credits.

Mission Statement:

To maintain a national interagency center of excellence for prescribed fire, with an emphasis on actual field experience, in order to increase skills and knowledge and to build confidence in the application of prescribed fire.

Cooperators:

*Florida Division of Forestry • Florida Water Management Districts • Tall Timbers Research Station
The Nature Conservancy-Florida State Parks • U.S. Forest Service • U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
National Park Service • U.S. Department of Defense*

Course Description/Objectives:

The National Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Center (The Center), Tallahassee, Florida, is a training facility designed to give individuals an opportunity to increase their prescribed fire practitioner skills. The Center provides opportunities to participate in large landscape prescribed burns involving the lands of several land management agencies in Florida and several surrounding states. A variety of uniformly applicable prescribed fire objectives and situations will be encountered in a field environment. **(Applications from disciplines other than fire management are strongly encouraged.)**

Sessions:

There will be five (5) training cycles offered in 2001. Each of the first two cycles will have 36 trainees and the last three cycles will each be limited to 12 trainees. The trainees will be broken into groups of six. Each group of individuals will be a separate unit, working and studying together for the duration of the training cycle. The time allocated for the cycle will allow for approximately 5-12 days of actual prescribed burning, as well as 3-4 days of classroom instruction. Six core topics will be presented. These topics are introductory in nature (presentations lasting from 2-4 hours each), and the presenters are drawn from a national pool of subject matter experts. Supplementary topics will be presented if weather precludes field operations. The Center's focus enables attendees to work toward the completion of items in their current prescribed burning qualification task books. Field trips will be used to enhance the trainee's experience. All activities are strictly weather dependent.

The Center will operate on the premise that every day will be a potential prescribed burning day to complement the core curriculum. Trainees will be expected to be flexible in their day-to-day activities in order to take advantage of every prescribed burning day during their training cycle. This may include working on acceptable burning days on weekends and any holidays that may fall within the cycle.

All trainees are expected to report to the Center "fire ready." This means having all necessary gear, personal and PPE, to go on fire duty for an extended period of time. Attendees will be on actual subsistence. The Center has realized dramatic cost savings by negotiating lodging and meal arrangements at all the field sites. Many of the lodging sites are shared room situations (i.e. camps or bunkhouses). Many host units are in remote locations. It will not always be possible to return from prescribe burns at convenient time for meals and showers.

The topics offered as part of the core curriculum are:

- Smoke Management
- Burn Planning and Goal Setting
- Prescribe Fire's Role and Uses
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Fire Effects
- Cooperative Agreements
- Current Fire Policy
- Supplementary topics include: Ignition Methods (including aerial), Organizing Multiple Burns, GIS Applications, Software Overviews, Risk Assessment, and Fire Ecology.

Trainees will not normally be able to complete their prescribe burning qualification task books during this training but can complete individual tasks leading up to qualification. Final certification hinges on the trainee's knowledge of the local fuels at their home unit, something that the home unit certifies.

Costs:

The trainee's home unit will be expected to pay the base 8 salary, plus all travel costs to and from the Center. Per Diem, overtime, and travel during the training may be covered by the Center. Attendees from state agencies may qualify for a Florida Division of Forestry sponsored stipend.

How to Apply:

Please fill out both the standard NWCG Interagency training form (Part I) and the PFTC application. Submit these forms to the Prescribed Fire Training Center by **September 15, 2000**. Faxed applications will be received up to this date. If mailing, postmark must be no later than September 1, 2000. Be sure to provide all pertinent information, including documentation of minimum qualifications, to facilitate the selection process. The Center will collate applications and forward to agency representatives who will prioritize trainees from their area. Selected students will be notified **in October 2000**.